

## **REMARKS**

The Examiner's Action mailed on September 26, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 14 and has canceled claims 1-13. Claim 14 is the independent claim. Claims 14-18 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

### **The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:**

The Examiner's Action rejects claims 14-17 as being anticipated by *AB Restello* (GB Patent Specification No. 1,025,034). It is respectfully submitted that the invention now defined by these claims is clearly patentable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

Amended claim 14 is directed to an envelope/bag for leaving visible evidence when it is opened. As disclosed by Applicant's specification, in the conventional confidential envelope, an intruder can access the envelope without any sign of being already opened (1) by cutting the envelope at the edge of the envelope and by gluing it back or (2) by peeling the sealed area apart.

Applicant's claimed invention overcomes these problems by providing a sealing print. In particular, the invention as defined in amended claim 14 specifies 'a sealing print formed on end portions of a face and a back, said end portions including an edge, the sealing print crossing said edge while the sealing print extends from said face to

said back without discontinuity.’ This claimed invention is not disclosed, suggested, or taught by the cited reference.

*AB Restello* discloses a tamper-resistant seal. However, *AB Restello* does not show the sealing print, as recited by claim 14.

In *AB Restello*, sealing occurs along all of the margins 9 of the sheets 5. A seal pattern 8 is provided inside an outer sealing line 7. The outer sealing line 7 forms a sealing joint and extends along the margins 9 of the sheets 5 (see *AB Restello* Page 2, lines 53-69, Figure 3). In other words, the seal pattern 8 is provided inside the margins 9 of the sheets 5 and, thus, does not cross the edges of sheets 5 from a front sheet to a back sheet. In *AB Restello*, the sheets 5 accordingly can be opened, without leaving any signs of being broken open on the seal pattern 8, by cutting the margins 9 or peeling the margins 9 apart.

On the contrary, the sealing print as recited in claim 14 crosses an edge defining the boundary between a face and a back while the sealing print extends from the face to the back without discontinuity. Accordingly, any intentional cut on an end portion around the edge will leave noticeable evidence on the sealing print.

Accordingly, *AB Restello* does not disclose the sealing print as recited by claim 14.

It is thus submitted that Applicant’s independent claim 14, and the claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by the cited reference.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

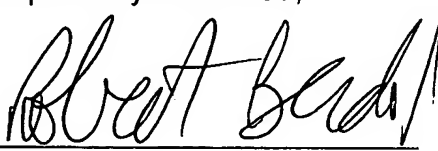
The Examiner's Action also rejects claim 18 as being obvious over *AB Restello* and *Fullerton* (USP 5,205,649). Because *Fullerton* does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies of *AB Restello*, and because claim 18 depends from independent claim 14, it is submitted that claim 18 is *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as independent claim 14, as well as for the additional features recited therein. It is requested that claim 18 be allowed and that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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AMENDMENT

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